

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENOYIE

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DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2405

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Ref: 8WM-C

Mr. Albert E. Whiteman Area Manager Department of Energy Albuquerque Operations Rocky Flats Area Office P.O. Box 928 Golden, Colorado 80402-0923

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Re: NPDES Permit CO-0001333 DOE - Rocky Flats Plant

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

This is in response to your letter of April 11, 1989, to Mr. James Scherer, EPA Regional Administrator, requesting our concurrence with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal to pump water from Pond B-5 to the Upper Church Ditch instead of discharging the water to Walnut Greek. After reviewing the information provided by DOE and the City of Broomfield, and discussing the matter with the State of Colorado, we have concluded that your request meets the requirements of 40 CFR 122.41(m) for a bypass. Your request for a one-time pumping of water from Pond B-5 to the Upper Church Ditch is hereby approved subject to the following conditions:

- EPA, the State of Colorado, and the City of Broomfield will be notified by telephone in advance of when the pumping is to start and will be notified when the pumping has been terminated;
- . 2. The concentration of total chromium in the water pumped from Pond B-5 shall not exceed 50 ug/L in any sample;
  - An acute static replacement toxicity test shall be conducted on a sample of either the contents of Pond 3-5, prior to start of pumping, or a sample collected during the first day of pumping from the discharge line or at the point of discharge to Upper Church Ditch. The static replacement toxicity tests shall be conducted in general accordance with the procedures set out in the latest revision of "Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms", EPA-600/4-85-013 (Rev. March 1985) and the "Region VIII EPA NPDES Acute Test Conditions -Whole Effluent Toxicity". The permittee shall conduct an acute 48-hour static toxicity test using Ceriodaphnia sp. and an acuce 96-hour static

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replacement toxicity test using fathead minnows five days ( $\pm$  2 days) of age. After each 24 hours of the test period, the dilutions shall be replaced with freshly prepared dilutions of the original effluent sample.

Acute toxicity occurs when 20 percent or more mortality is observed for either species at any effluent concentration. If more than 10 percent control mortality occurs, the test shall be repeated until satisfactory control survival is achieved.

The laboratory conducting the test shall telephone preliminary results 48 hours after initiation of the test to Bob Burm at 293-1587 (or Bob Shankland at 293-1591 if Bob Burm is not available). All test results shall be reported to Bob Burm (or Bob Shankland) by no later than seven days after the start of pumping.

EPA will review the results of the test and reserves the right to require that the pumping be temporarily or permanently stopped if the test results are unacceptable. Additional tests may also be required if considered necessary;

4. The water shall be monitored for the parameters listed below at the specified frequency:

Effluent Characteristic	Frequency
Total Chromium, ug/L	Daily
$BOD_5$ , $mg/L$	<u>a</u> /
Total Suspended Solids, m/L	<u>a</u> /
Nitrates (as N), mg/L	<u>a</u> /
Fecal Coliform - No./100mL	<u>a</u> /
Total Phosphorus, mg/L	<u>a</u> /

Samples shall be taken during the first day of the discharge and at weekly intervals thereafter until the discharge is terminated.

Grab samples may be used. Samples shall be taken from the discharge line or at the point of discharge to Upper Church Ditch. The above monitoring shall be in addition to any monitoring agreed to with the City of Broomfield. In addition to monitoring the quality of the water, the approximate total volume of water pumped to Upper Church Ditch shall be determined and reported along with the analytical results;

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5. All monitoring results shall be tabulated in letter format and sent to EPA, the State of Colorado, and the City of Broomfield within 30 days after termination of the discharge;

- 6. The pumping shall be terminated once the water level in Pond B-5 is down to the standpipe level; and
- 7. The necessary measures shall be taken to minimize the pumping of sediment from the bottom of Pond B-5 (e.g. suspending the intake line above the bottom of pond).

Our staff would like to initiate discussions with your staff to explore options to prevent or minimize problems of this nature in the future. If you have any questions concerning the above, please telephone Pat Godsil, Chief of the Compliance Branch, at 293-523 or Bob Shankland at 293-1591. Questions concerning acute toxicity testing should be addressed to Bob Burm at 293-1587

Sincerely,

May Halolan Max H. Dodson

Director
Water Management Division

cc: Bob Shukle, Colorado WQCD
Marvin D. Thurber, City of Broomfield
James Scherer, Regional Administrator
Carol Byerly, Office of Congressman Skaggs

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